

NEWS ALERT



U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Homeland Security Committee

Rep. Bennie G. Thompson, Chairman



**MEDIA ADVISORY**

## ***NOTICE OF FIELD HEARING AND SITE VISIT***

### **Homeland Security Committee Examines the Progress in Securing Gulf Coast Communities**

June 1, 2007 (WASHINGTON) – On Monday, June 4, and Tuesday, June 5, 2007, the House Homeland Security Subcommittee on Management, Investigations, and Oversight, chaired by Rep. Chris P. Carney (D-PA), and the Subcommittee on Emergency Communications, Preparedness, and Response, chaired by Rep. Henry Cuellar (D-TX), will hold a joint field hearing in Bay St. Louis, Mississippi and a site visit to the Mississippi Gulf Coast and New Orleans.

Specifically, the Committee will examine portions of the Gulf Coast and New Orleans devastated by Hurricane Katrina, and will conduct a hearing to consider the new Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) regional structure. The hearing will also evaluate improvements made in communications between State, local, and Federal emergency managers and what more should be done to better prepare for this year's hurricane season.

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Monday's hearing, entitled "Empowering State and Local Officials Through Enhanced FEMA Regional Offices," will be held at 2:00 p.m. at the Our Lady of the Gulf Community Center, 228 South Beach Blvd., Bay St. Louis, Mississippi.

Witnesses include Major Phil May, Regional Administrator, FEMA Region IV; Bruce Baughman, Director, Alabama Emergency Management Agency; Steve Delahousey, VP of Emergency Preparedness, American Medical Response; Brien C. Ruiz, President, St. Bernard Parish Fire Fighters Association (IAFF Local 1468).

**There will be a media opportunity following the completion of the hearing.**

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FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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